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State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Scott Walker, Governor
Manny Perez, Secretary

March 18, 2011

Dear Youth Apprenticeship Coordinators and Other Interested Parties:

We are pleased to announce the release of the 2011-2012 Youth Apprenticeship Local Grant and Program Application Request for Proposals. As you know, Governor Walker remains dedicated to providing opportunities for our students in Youth Apprenticeship Programs as demonstrated by his support of the funding for this program.

The Governor stated in his 2011-13 Capital Budget address that we must keep our promise to the people of Wisconsin and provide new opportunities for workers and families. He added that we need to stay committed to the future so our graduates are able to compete with their peers on a local and global level. This includes high quality work-based learning programs like Youth Apprenticeship that lead to gainful employment both during the training program and long after.

Youth apprenticeship has proven to be a successful strategy for preparing high school students for their chosen careers while providing employers an opportunity to develop their future workforce. Governor Walker sees this program as an integral component of Wisconsin's future workforce development.

The Governor has made a commitment to Wisconsin to create a leaner and cleaner state government. Now we must do the same by ensuring we utilize all opportunities to coordinate locally with regional economic development efforts. We ask that you demonstrate your commitment by ramping up coordination of your youth apprenticeship programs with your local Workforce Development Boards and other programs that will expand employment opportunities for our youth.

We thank you for the hard work that you all do on behalf of young people and employers in your communities.

Sincerely,



Manny Perez
Secretary